

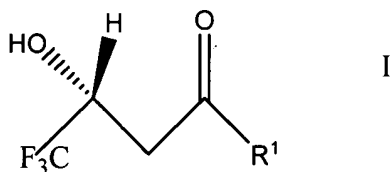
**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims**

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the formula

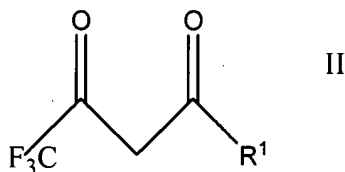


wherein R<sup>1</sup> is

- (a) -OR<sup>2</sup>, in which R<sup>2</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2-10</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3-8</sub>-cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b) -NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, in which R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are identical or different and represent hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2-10</sub>-alkenyl, C<sub>3-8</sub>-cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c) -SR<sup>5</sup>, in which R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen, C<sub>1-10</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>2-10</sub>-alkenyl, aryl or C<sub>3-8</sub>-cycloalkyl,

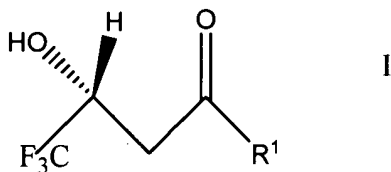
which process comprises:

- (i) reacting a trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivative of formula II



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is

- (a)  $-OR^2$ , in which  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ , in which  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are identical or different and represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c)  $-SR^5$ , in which  $R^5$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl, aryl or  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl,
- with a ~~microorganisms~~ microorganism of the species ~~genus~~ *Escherichia coli*, or cell-free extracts derived therefrom, wherein said microorganism is transformed with a gene encoding a NADPH generator or regenerator and wherein said ~~microorganisms~~ express microorganism expresses an NADPH-dependent enzyme having carbonyl reductase activity which ~~an enzyme~~ which enantioselectively reduces the trifluoroacetoacetic acid derivatives of formula II leading to the production of 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives of the formula:



wherein  $R^1$  is

- (a)  $-OR^2$ , in which  $R^2$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl, aryl, alkoxyalkyl or alkoxyalkoxyalkyl,
- (b)  $-NR^3R^4$ , in which  $R^3$  and  $R^4$  are identical or different and represent hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl,  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl or aryl, or
- (c)  $-SR^5$ , in which  $R^5$  is hydrogen,  $C_{1-10}$ -alkyl,  $C_{2-10}$ -alkenyl, aryl or  $C_{3-8}$ -cycloalkyl; and
- (ii) isolating the 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives produced.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 8 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia coli* are~~ is selected from the group consisting of a *Escherichia coli* JM109, a *Escherichia coli* HB101 and a *Escherichia coli* DH5.

11. (Currently Amended) The process according to Claim ~~9 or 10~~ 8 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia coli* are~~ is transformed with a gene encoding a glucose dehydrogenase.

12. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11 wherein the ~~microorganisms of the genus *Escherichia coli* are~~ is transformed with the plasmids pKAR and pKKGDH, as deposited under the deposition numbers DSM 11902 and DSM 12566, respectively.

13. (Currently Amended) The process of Claims 8, ~~[[9,]]~~ 10 or 12 wherein said process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives is carried out at a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

14. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 11 wherein said process for preparing 4,4,4-trifluoro-3(R)-hydroxybutyric acid derivatives is carried out at a temperature of from 5 to 60°C.

15. (Currently Amended) The process according to one of Claims 8, ~~[[9,]]~~ 10 or 12, wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.

16. (Previously Presented) The process according to Claim 11 wherein said process is carried out at a pH of from 5 to 10.

17. (New) The process according to Claim 8 wherein said process is carried out with *Escherichia coli*.

18. (New) The process according to Claim 8 wherein the NADPH-dependent enzyme is from expression of a gene from *Sporobolomyces salmonicolor* as harbored on plasmid pKAR.